

Claim Amendments

Deletions Double Bracketed (5 words or less) and/or Strikeout - Additions Underlined

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

Claim 1. (Currently Canceled)

Claim 2. (Currently Canceled)

Claim 3. (Currently Canceled)

Claim 4. (Currently Canceled)

Claim 5. (Currently Canceled)

Claim 6. (Currently Canceled)

Claim 7. (Currently Canceled)

Claim 8. (Currently Canceled)

Claim 9. (Currently Canceled)

Claim 10. (Currently Canceled)

Claim 11. (Currently Canceled)

Claim 12. (Currently Canceled)

Claim 13. (Currently Canceled)

Claim 14. (Currently Canceled)

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) A vacuum ring for use in conjunction with a test plate on a component testing system for testing DUTs such that each DUT has a cross sectional area less than a predetermined minimum cross sectional area, the vacuum ring comprising:

a base; and

means for ejecting DUTs from the test plate, said means including an eject hole pattern defined by the base for discharging compressed gas toward the DUTs;

wherein the eject hole pattern includes a plurality of closely spaced apart individual holes such that each of the individual holes has a cross sectional area that is less than the size that would be large enough to receive a DUT having the predetermined minimum cross sectional area; and

wherein the base does not include a resistance heating element or a plasma generating electrode;

whereby the number of holes affecting a particular DUT for DUT ejection purposes is dependent on the cross sectional size of that particular DUT.

Claim 16. (Original) A vacuum ring as recited in claim 15, wherein the holes have uniform circular shapes with diameters of about five mils.

Claim 17. (Original) A vacuum ring as recited in claim 15, further comprising a ceramic layer on the base.